



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1876.

GENERAL EPPA HUNTON.—The unanimous nomination of General Eppa Hunton for reelection to Congress, by the convention which met in this city to day, is a deserved tribute to his faithful, able and efficient representation as the district ever had, and reflects credit alike upon the representative and his constituency. There are few men to whom the plaudits, "well done, good and faithful servant," can be more appropriately bestowed. His reelection is sure by a large majority.

ALEXANDRIA'S FIRST ENTERPRISE.—After nearly a century of schemes, devised with wisdom, and often carried out with sagacity, for the benefit of Alexandria, it may not be a useless, as it certainly is not an uninteresting theme to enquire into some of the causes which have prevented the full fruition of these magnificent endeavors.

Those there are who deem Alexandria as without enterprise. The history of the many and great works of internal improvement, suggested here, and carried out primarily in the interest of the town, will best refute such senseless charges.

No ordinary engineer made the preliminary surveys of the trade routes, designed to feed the commerce of Alexandria. The compass and the skilled eye of the "foremost man of all the world" were there, more than a century ago, the main lines that were to make the teeming West tributary to our advantage. Nor up to the hour of his death, did Washington cease to initiate and to promote schemes for the benefit of Alexandria.

The principal of these schemes, and the first of Alexandria's enterprises was a plan for making navigable the Potomac to a point as near the Ohio river as possible, and thence a connection by canal between the two rivers. Doubtless such a plan flashed on the mind of Washington, when he took his first mission up the Potomac Valley, and thence across to the head waters of the Ohio to Fort Duquesne. But the busy scenes of the French war, and the subsequent years of the Revolution, left no time or thought for the arts of peace. When, however, Independence was secured, the plan was renewed. Alexandria was then a town of some 2,000 inhabitants, without a paved street, and with few houses outside the limit of St. Asaph, Princess, and Wolfe streets. Georgetown was two little villages near the mouth of Rock Creek. Washington city was not even on paper.

The plan took shape as "The Potomac Company," designed to improve the navigation of the upper Potomac, and was chartered by both Virginia and Maryland.

On the 8th of February, 1785, John Fitzgerald and Wm. Hartshorn opened books of subscription for the new enterprise in the house formerly occupied by the Sun Fire Company. The Potomac Company erected locks at the Great Falls in 1793, which are still existing. Even before the close of the last century most of the obstructions in the river, from Savage river to tide water, had been removed, and navigation had become possible at Hook's Falls and the Little Falls. It was found, however, that to secure safe and smooth navigation on the river rapids a great sum was needed, and lotteries were resorted to to fill the treasury of the company.

The navigation of the upper Potomac was conducted in boats similar to the present canal boats, and almost as soon as trade began to come down the river, it was found that Georgetown reaped the advantage, because many of the boats, especially in stormy times, were afraid to venture into the wide and deep water between Georgetown and Alexandria. Besides this the Long Bridge had been built, and was then a bar to our commerce from above, as it is now a hindrance to the commerce of Georgetown from below.

Accordingly, in order to avoid both the open water and the Long Bridge, the Common Council of Alexandria, in 1811, applied for, and obtained the right to cut a canal from the Potomac, opposite Georgetown, around the west end of the causeway from Mason's Island to the western shore of the river, and into the arm of the river that passes around the western side of that Island, and along the west side of Alexander's peninsula, and through any points of land between Mason's Island and Alexandria, which might improve the boat navigation of the river. The design was to bring boats down from Three Sisters, close along the Virginia shore, then between Alexander's Island and the shore, and across the Washington Turnpike near Roach's Spring; thence close along the Virginia shore to Alexandria. The Common Council was bound to complete this work within 10 years. The war with Great Britain came, and kept people busy with other matters until the two years had expired, and the work was abandoned.

The Potomac Company failed to do its work, the C. & O. Canal was devised to finish what the former was unable to accomplish, and, on the 16th of May, 1825, the Potomac Company, at a meeting, held in Georgetown, was formally merged in the C. & O. Canal Company.

The Tammany and anti-Tammany demonstrations of the New York democracy have out to an agreement by which Tammany has 39 and anti-Tammany 24 delegates to the State convention which met to-day at Saratoga. Anti-Tammany is also to have two representatives on the State committee and three on the electoral ticket. Everything is working smoothly for the great victory next November.

CONGRESSIONAL CONVENTION.

Unanimous and Harmonious Action.—Gen. Hunton Nominated by acclamation—Resolutions of Respect to the Late Speaker Kerr—Speeches of Messrs. McCormick, Peyton, and Geary—Enthusiasm, &c.

The Conservative Convention of the Eighth Congressional District met in Sarepta Hall, in this city, at 10 o'clock this morning, and was called to order by Judge John T. Lovell, of Warren county, who stated, briefly, the object for which it had convened, and urged that every thing that might be done, should be done with a view to the general welfare. He then nominated as temporary chairman Thos. P. Wallace, of Orange county, who was unanimously chosen.

Mr. Wallace, on assuming the duties of chairman, briefly thanked the convention for the honor.

On motion of Mr. Mathew, of Loudoun, E. Suowden, Jr., of Alexandria, and the editors of all the conservative papers in the district, together with Mr. Moffat, of Rappahannock, were chosen secretaries.

Mr. Moore, of Fairfax, moved that the chairman of each delegation hand to the secretary a list of the delegates from their respective counties.

Mr. Ward, of Frederick, suggested that the temporary organization be made permanent in order to save time.

Mr. Green, of Culpeper, objected to the suggestion of Mr. Ward.

Mr. Ward withdrew his suggestion and Mr. Moore his motion.

Mr. Poplam, of Rappahannock, moved that the list of delegates from each county be handed in to the secretary.

Mr. Scott, of Orange, opposed any "red-tape" proceedings, and moved to make the temporary officers permanent.

Mr. Green, of Culpeper, again interposed his objections, and insisted upon the regular mode of proceedings.

Mr. Nalle, of Culpeper, seconded Mr. Green's views.

Mr. Moore, of Fairfax, in order that the chair might act intelligently, moved the adoption of the rules of order of the House of Delegates.

Mr. Geary, of Alexandria county, in a humorous vein, showed that all that was desired to be obtained could have been accomplished in less time than had been occupied in the discussion and moved that a committee of credentials and permanent organization be appointed, upon which he called the previous question, which being taken his motion prevailed and the following committee were appointed:

On Credentials—A. H. Rogers, of Loudoun, John Powell, of Fairfax; Thos. R. Nalle, of Culpeper; Frank Shepherd, of Fauquier; John A. Browning, of Rappahannock; E. P. Smith, of Madison; John Williams, of Orange; G. J. Gass, of Clarke; John W. Peyton, of Warren; Jas. B. Burgess, of Frederick, and George Washington, of Alexandria.

On Permanent Organization—Wm. Mathew, of Loudoun; Geo. Mason, of Fairfax; Geo. Q. Grey, of Culpeper; A. D. Payne, of Fauquier; T. J. Poplam, of Rappahannock; John P. Aylor, of Madison; Henry P. Holladay, of Orange; J. R. C. Lewis, of Clarke; John R. Rust, of Warren; Geo. Ward, of Frederick, and W. J. Geary, of Alexandria.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following list of delegates as present: Alexandria City—George Washington, Wm. A. Stewart, J. T. Beckham and J. M. Johnson.

Alex. County—L. W. Hatch, W. H. Hatch, T. B. Swann, J. K. Johnson, George Palfani, C. W. Payne, sr., W. J. Geary, Dr. F. B. J. Fry, George Adams, sr., R. Walker, C. Benette and R. Veach.

Fairfax County—R. H. Cockerell, L. Makeley, J. R. Pugh, J. D. Bell, Thos. E. Carter, E. M. Lowe, Wm. J. Gannell, John Powell, John A. Marshall, J. F. Mayhugh, G. W. Mason, Wm. Hunter, J. C. Laughran, Arthur Herbert, J. J. Moran, E. G. Lee, Thomas Moore, Ira Williams, John W. Graham, Jos. Ryan, R. W. Gaillard, J. Owens Berry and H. M. Fokker.

Madison County—F. P. Smith, John P. Aylor, Theo. Smart and Thomas J. Humphreys. Loudoun—Jas. Moor, H. H. Eaton, L. M. Shumate, H. Hibler, J. C. Coleman, C. L. Mankins, W. S. Simmes, Robert Bentley, A. H. Rogers, Wm. F. Barrett, Broj. Simpson, Wm. Mathew, Col. R. H. Peyton, T. M. C. Paxson, A. T. M. Filler, Lewee T. Jones, J. W. Patton, A. B. Moore, and William Chamberlin.

Warren County—Jas. R. Richards, John R. Rush, James Leeth, Jas. W. Peyton, C. G. R. M. and J. T. Lovell.

Frederick—J. B. Burgess and Geo. W. Ward.

Rappahannock—John A. Browning, Col. Chas. Green, Horace Moffett, Colonel Lawson Eastham, and T. G. Popham.

Culpeper—Geo. D. Gray, Jas. W. Green, T. M. Archer, R. S. Lewis, Thos. B. Nalle, J. W. Coons, S. M. Newhouse, Richard L. Wis, B. Palliam, R. Y. Field, Dr. S. R. McClanahan, G. K. Jolley.

Fauquier—A. D. Payne, D. C. Gordon, L. S. Helm, Eppa Hunton, Jr., A. D. Smith, J. Cash Colquhoun, H. B. Kerriek, Thos. Henderson, J. S. Mason, R. F. Branner, G. W. Cook, Frank Shepherd, T. B. Stewart.

Clarke—Marshall McCormick, Wm. Taylor, Jno. C. R. Lewis, John S. Smith, Geo. Glass, Orange—J. P. Cowherd, W. W. Scott, John G. Williams, Wm. Graham, W. Wallace, K. B. Rogers, Wm. Graham.

Mr. Gray, of Culpeper, from the committee on Organization, then made the following report, which was unanimously adopted.

That the temporary organization be made permanent with the following additions: Vice Presidents—Alexandria, J. M. Johnson; Fauquier, H. B. Kerriek; Frederick, J. B. Burgess; Rappahannock, Charles Green; Loudoun, Henry Heaton; Madison, T. J. Humphreys; Orange, W. W. Scott; Warren, T. R. Richards; Clarke, M. McCormick; Fairfax, Thos. Moor; Culpeper, G. J. Kiley.

Sergeant at Arms, L. Harrison Kell, of Alexandria.

And that the rules of the House of Delegates be adopted as the rules of government of this body.

The report was adopted, and Mr. Wallace returned his thanks for the unexpected honor of being made permanent presiding officer, and alluded eloquently to the district, coupling with it the names of Washington, Madison, Jefferson, Lee, and Stone-wall Jackson.

The Vice Presidents then took their seats on the platform, and the Chair announced that nominations, not for the candidate, but for the next representative were in order.

Mr. McCormick, of Clarke, then placed in nomination GENERAL EPPA HUNTON, paying a handsome and fitting tribute to the worth and ability of the General.

whom challenged the other counties of the district to maintain their proportionate conservative vote in the coming election, as he pledged Culpeper to do.

On motion of Mr. Popham, the nomination was made by acclamation, the delegates rising, and unanimously.

Mr. Musbach, of Alexandria, gave notice of the meeting to take place to-night.

A committee of one from each county was appointed to wait on Gen. Hunton and inform him of the action of the convention.

During the absence of the committee Mr. Scott, of Orange, prefacing them with a few appropriate remarks, submitted the following, which was adopted by a rising silent vote:

The delegates of the Eighth Congressional District in convention assembled, desirous of expressing their admiration of the Hon. Mchael Kerr, late speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, and their sorrow at his untimely death, do hereby

Resolve, That in his death the country has lost a valuable public servant who was a type of that "noblest virtue of God—an honest man."

That the simple virtues of integrity and probity of character, which shone with such conspicuous lustre in him, are the highest elements of civic worth, and the mainstay and corner-stone of republican institutions.

That this convention recall, with emotions of pride and gratification, the noble tribute to him in the unanimous declaration of Congress as to his spotless reputation and here reaffirming that declaration, and making it their own, desire only to supplement it with the poet's saying:

"Through all his tract of years, He wore the white flower of a blameless life." He wore the white flower of the above is ordered to be sent to the family of the deceased.

The committee soon after appeared with Gen. Hunton, who was received with loud and long continued applause. Before taking the stand the General said that he was weighed down with feelings of gratitude at this renewal of the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens, a constituency that embraced twelve thousand of the best people on earth. He then gave a succinct account of the action of the House of Representatives, showing the good that it had accomplished and the prospect that was in store for the country under a Democratic administration. The General excused himself from making an extended speech as it was expected that he would speak to-night. He gave a most encouraging account of the prospect of the election of Tilden and Hendricks.

General H's remarks were received with great applause.

In response to loud calls Mr. Geary of Alexandria county made a humorous and telling speech, in which he dealt the Radicals some severe blows and did not spare their coadjutors. His remarks were listened to with great delight and elicited the warmest applause.

On motion of Mr. McCormick the thanks of the convention were tendered to the officers, and the convention then adjourned without day.

Radical Congressional Convention. Nomination of I. C. O'Neal, of Alexandria.

The Radical Congressional Convention met at Harmonie Hall this morning and was called to order by Col. James Cochran, of Culpeper, chairman of the Leesburg Convention. R. G. Cunningham, of Alexandria county, acted as Secretary.

After reading the minutes of the Leesburg Convention, a long discussion ensued on the appointment of additional members of the committee on credentials. The following members were appointed on the committee on credentials: Orange, J. Bell; Clarke, J. H. Beamer; Loudoun, H. R. Holmes; Alexandria, J. B. Synnax; Fairfax, N. W. Pierson; Rappahannock, W. B. Parnell; Warren, Jacob Miller; Frederick, Fred. Gross; Fauquier, S. P. Bayley, sr.; Madison, J. J. Robinson; Culpeper, Coleman Taylor.

A scene of indescribable confusion then ensued, during which motions, points of order, &c., were raised to open the chair, who finally ejected his intention not to entertain any motion until the committee on credentials had met and reported. The committee then took the credentials and the Convention took a recess until two o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention re-assembled at 2 p. m. when the report of the committee on credentials was read, out of which there arose various disputed questions. In the discussion of these questions there was a scene of the utmost confusion, constant spats between the chairman and secretary and between members on the floor. At times there were shouts and yells, several members on the floor gesticulating violently and the chairman pounding vigorously on the table. Sergeants-at-arms were then elected and some sort of order restored, after which the report of the committee on credentials was adopted.

Permanent officers were then elected as follows: President, O. E. Hine, of Fairfax; Secretary, J. B. Synnax, of Alexandria; Sergeant at Arms, T. B. Pion, of Alexandria.

J. H. Radriek, of Frederick, moved to take an informal ballot for Congressional nominees.

Major Hoxey, of Culpeper, moved that the action of the Leesburg Convention, giving to the delegates the full vote of their counties, be reconsidered.

Major Hoxey's motion was finally lost.

R. D. Beckley then moved to go into nomination of a representative in Congress.

Carried.

Job Hawthurst, of Fairfax, nominated I. C. O'Neal, of Alexandria.

C. P. Taylor, of Culpeper, nominated L. L. Lewis, of Culpeper.

Col. James Cochran, of Culpeper, seconded the nomination of L. L. Lewis, and made an eulogistic speech.

R. G. Cunningham seconded the nomination of I. C. O'Neal.

J. B. Synnax nominated J. W. Marshall, of Alexandria, which nomination was seconded by R. D. Beckley.

It was resolved that the first ballot be in formal.

L. L. Lewis, of Culpeper, said if nominated he would accept.

The informal ballot resulted: O'Neal, 21; Lewis, 21; Marshall, 13.

R. D. Beckley then withdrew the name of J. W. Marshall, and a formal ballot was then taken resulting: O'Neal, 32; Lewis, 25; Marshall, 1. So L. C. O'Neal was declared nominated.

News of the Day.

Yesterday was the second day of the International regatta at Philadelphia, and everything passed off in a most enjoyable manner, the races being witnessed by an immense throng of spectators. The event of the day was the four-oared race between the Yale College crew and the London Rowing Club, the latter coming in winner, after an exciting contest, in 8 minutes 54 seconds.

Letter from the "Old Virginia Lowlands."

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

ON THE YORK RIVER, Aug. 29.—[I]f you are a citizen of Williamsburg could be taken up and transported to a corner of the Centennial grounds it would doubtless prove the greatest curiosity there, and present a picture of venerable dilapidation, and hoar antiquity, only equaled by the excavated cities of Pompeii or Herculaneum. This immediate section of Virginia, lying between the two rivers—the James and the York—is by nature the richest and most fertile spot of the State. The soil is rich and inexhaustible, the climate several weeks earlier than in the valley, the river yields a bountiful supply of fish and oysters, and the problem of where to live with the least exertion is solved here. Land is exceedingly cheap, varying from three to ten dollars per acre, with no purchasers even at that figure. Before the war the estates lying on and between the two rivers were famous for their size and productiveness. It was a common sight to see a wheat field of a thousand acres; the ripening grain reaching as far as the eye could see, waving and undulating in the breeze, like the billows of the ocean. The planters led careless, luxurious lives, working lazily, riding leisurely, and living liberally. Their existence was an easy going one, and they were busily ignorant of such a thing as adding their heads or worrying their brains for a living. Enough labor in looking over their plantations to attend and interest them, and they passed their lives in the daily discharge of pleasant duties and elegant hospitality. The wide folding doors, several open, and the friends, the traveler, or the tramp, would never be turned away. The city was no where made such a marked change as here. The fine roomy mansion is out of repair, the negro cabins have tumbled down, and the fertile fields are now waste forests; the negroes have all scattered, and labor is but difficult to obtain and costly to have. Here is the African's paradise; here he can live with but little work. Building his log cabin on the banks of the river the stream supplies him with fish, and the bivalves. His little corn patch gives him bread, and his neighbor's hog pen furnishes him with meat. In the fall, winter and spring, he can get ten dollars a week for oystering and clamming, and, of course, the farmers cannot compete with the river trade, and the natural consequence is that three-fourths of the land is in the market at a price that is absurdly cheap. This region of all others is the place for a German colony, and a community of those temperate, frugal, industrious people would create a place of surpassing beauty and wealth. It is not to be imagined that even with this gloomy state of affairs that hope lies dead and trust realities inert in the Lowlands' breast. He still plods on and waits with a sublime faith for the extension of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad through his vicinity. When the scrap of the iron horse is heard, then all his hopes will have full fruition; land will appreciate in value, borders of real estate purchasers will spread over the country, his wood will be in demand, and a ready market for all his surplus can be had. So he talks, and from thinking and dwelling so long on one subject he really believes what he says.

In the midst of this desolate section stands WILLIAMSBURG, four miles from James river. It is a fit gem for such a setting, and is a spot full of interest to the tourist. Standing in those deserted streets with not the sign of life visible, with the setting sun casting its declining rays on the old houses, and waving fantastic shadows on the moss-grown walls and ivy clad roofs, one feels that he is the last man left in the wreck of worlds, and stands waiting for this lone spot to crumble into nothingness and a vanished universe.

The glamour of other days clings lovingly to the old place yet, and a solemn weird silence broods over the town. In our magic new world where cities spring up in a decade, and where the pathless forests of yesterday are the populous mart of today, this ancient burg is a real curiosity, for it is exactly as it was a hundred years ago, with no change except that made by the hand of time. The houses with their pressed brick, their quaint angles, their quaint Dutch peaked roofs and mouldering pillars stand like the landmark of another race forever gone.

I entered a large house, and found it deserted; it was a type of many others there. It was of that rambling roomy style of architecture so suggestive of perfect comfort, founded upon combined ideas of different people, that is seen in many old mansions of the State. It was doubtless the abode of wealth, aristocracy and unbounded hospitality in its day. The house was strongly built with deep massive walls and solid timbers, and seemed as if it was raised to bid defiance to time itself, but the century of years had told on its strength. The stairway here had like the strong man grown to be a decrepit being, who clings to life long after his hopes are dead. The windows are broken and shattered, the floor caved in, the hearstone sunk and ceiling falling down, leaving unsightly blotches; and decay had touched with its hoary finger every space and every spot, leaving only untouched the massive chimney which stood like a sentinel amid the desolation of a mouldering home.

In the gathering gloom it seemed as if the shadowy forms filled the space. The murmur of the summer wind sounded like the long drawn human sigh, and strange shadows passed across the hall.

"All day in the dreary house, The doors upon the hinges creaked; The blue fly sung upon the pane, The mouse behind the mouldering wainscot shrieked."

Or from his crevice peered about; Old tootsteps trod upon the floors; Old faces glimmered through the doors; Old voices called upon him without, He only said " * * * * *"

If those walls could talk what tales they could tell of unstinted cheer, unbounded wealth, and brilliant display. What quondam lord sat in satin and lace have floated through the rooms, visions of delicate beauty and rare grace. What erect figures of the gallant men, in their showy, splendid costumes, have sauntered through the spacious rooms, or murmured love nonsense in the little pink cars of the colonial maid as she stands in the dreamy, half lit conservatory, with the fragrance of the flowers filling the air, and the light of the room silvering the landscape. All is gone now, and such is life. The plaag where Lord Dunmore said his devoirs in his courtly style, and where Patrick Henry visited in his off hand republican way, is now the abode of bats and owls. Vanitas, vanitas—all is vanity.

The old Raleigh tavern has disappeared. It was burned down by a vandal in order to get the insurance, which was never paid. The powder house which Dunmore seized is still standing, and a hundred other objects of interest which I have not space to mention. The old

WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE

still stands, but its glory has departed, and nothing but the prestige of its once proud name remains. In spite of all reason and all logic it still struggles to hold its own among the institutions of the State. It was the most unwise step the Legislature ever took, when it gave an appropriation to this college. The wisest thing the William and Mary can do is to transfer all the endowments and funds to the University, or to Lexington. A Commonwealth needs but two institutions, the civic and military, and Virginia has both, and to try to direct the patronage to an obscure college is absurdly idiotic. The money expended annually at the "William and Mary" is a large sum, and

were it given equally between the two great schools of the University and Washington and Lee College it would do tenfold more good, and reflect additional lustre on those Universities. The William and Mary is practically dead to day. After ten years struggle it is nothing more than a large day school, and though the trustees and managers deserve great honor and credit for their steady, and gallant combat for the school, yet, even they must be convinced that the days of the old institution are numbered; it has simply outlived all its usefulness, as a State college, ought to be abolished. Of course the people of the vicinity don't think so, but every visitor can perceive the necessity of the step, and we cannot help hoping that the coming Legislature will take some decided steps in this matter.

In this town of many hundred inhabitants there is not even a newspaper—daily or weekly. The majority of people never read a paper at all, the news is passed from mouth to mouth, as in the primitive times, and a good talker, with a vivid imagination, can live there so free, and have, like Mick-y-Free, the run of the house, the whole year round. There is no bar room, no tailor shop, no beer or barber saloons, no insurance office, no lumber yard, no photograph gallery, nor fire engine; nothing that civilizes a man, or refines the barbarian; no ward meetings, and it is scarcely to be credited, it hasn't either a Tilden or a Hayes pole. All it possesses is the memory of our ancestors, and we feel like a potato, for the best part of us is under the ground. From this Deserted Village to

YORKTOWN

is a pleasant drive, through the piney woods mostly, with here and there a sugarcorn. Compared to the villages in this section, Yorktown is a bustling place. A steamer from Baltimore stops at the wharf three times a week, thereby furnishing a ready market for the oysters, fish and produce. York river is one vast oyster bed; the fishermen plant the bivalves in the spring, and then lay on their oars until fall when the oysters have grown large enough to be gathered. This is a chivalry place along the historic banks of the lovely York. Everybody you meet looks as if his liver was out of order and he had the jaundice and dyspepsia. "Chills is bad this summer!" is the common remark. No one escapes, they are as certain as turkeys, or as taxes, and according to Mr. Barkis there's nothing truer or more certain than them. It is a common thing for a man to shake his boots off before breakfast, with the chill, and then raise the thermometer in the house by the fever afterward. As a general thing the Africans don't suffer from ague and fever, which is the curse of Tidewater Virginia.

POLITICS

are beginning to get warm. I heard as an undeniable fact that fully one-third of the negroes voted for the national Democratic ticket, and it is said there are one hundred colored votes cast for Tilden. As for the local ticket the black vote is solid for Platt if he runs against Goode. Platt is very popular here with both colors, and Mr. Goode will have to make a brilliant canvass to overcome his opponent's strength, but the present incumbent is the right man in the right place, and as a countryman said about him, he is a whole team when he's started, and an off horse beside, and he is the only man we will vote for against Platt. The general impression is that Mr. Goode will be returned by a close majority to the next Congress.

THE FREEDMAN'S BANK.

Col. Frederick A. Cocking, of New York, delivered a speech in that city night before last, which is reported as follows by the New York Herald:

He said of the Freedman's Bank swindle that "the consideration which is presumed to actuate the managers of a savings bank is that of charity—one of the highest and noblest motives of human action."

Among the damning infamies of Grant's administration is the betrayal of the trust assumed by the incorporation of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company. While we denounce the frauds, swindles, extortions and perjuries of the numerous Kings at Washington and elsewhere, which have reduced millions of our people to idleness, poverty and despair, we must not overlook this mean and all the outrages of which they have been guilty.

The organization of this institution was promoted by the ablest of incentives. While the intention of its founders was adhered to, its management reflected the highest honor on all concerned. Its charter was reported in the United States Senate by Charles Sumner on the 17th of February, 1865, and it was approved by Abraham Lincoln and thus became a law on the 3d of March following. It is not necessary, in this place, to say much of the men. The former had consecrated his entire public career to the promotion of the best interests of his fellow men, irrespective of color, creed or lineage. He had never swerved in his fidelity; he was stricken down at the post of duty by the vindictive tools of Grant's administration. The other, the Great Emancipator, when he put his hand to the proclamation which struck the shackles from the limbs of 4,000,000 of men, appreciated fully their needs and accepted them as the wards of the nation. Had either of these men foreseen the base uses to which this institution was to be put it is safe to say that its charter would never have been given.

The war was about to close. A large sum would necessarily be disbursed for the pay and bounties of the colored soldiers. It was foreseen that this would be the signal for an onslaught upon these men by a horde of speculators and adventurers, intent upon despoiling them of their money. Under those circumstances the illustrious statesman who, as we have seen, reported the charter of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, conceived the philanthropic purpose of providing a depository where their hard-earned funds could be received and invested for their benefit. It was approved by Peter Cooper, William Cullen Bryant, Gerrit Smith, William Albin and Edward Atkinson, and the character of the enterprise was one of the last of President Lincoln's.

This is a benevolent institution. All profits go to the depositors or to educational purposes for the freedmen and their descendants.

Every thing looked bright and encouraging, and deposits were made to the amount of \$56,000,000. Even after Grant's accession to power it appeared as if the corrupt vermin which everywhere defiled the high places of the administration had been offeally deprived of the power to tamper with this sacred trust. Unhappily, under the new order of things, this hope proved to be but a snare and a delusion. Edmund Burke has somewhere said, "No property is secure when it becomes large enough to tempt the cupidity of indigent power." Grant had not been a year in office before the rapacity of the crew which surrounded him—Bess Shipherd, Hulet Kibbourn, John O. Evans, J. V. Vanderburg and others, all of them confessed members of the real estate ring, in which it is more than suspected that the President himself was a secret partner, was directed to the millions of deposits which had been accumulated in the bank. These co-partners found ready accomplices in the Finance Committee and agencies of the institution. Together they formed an ombudsman, by the operations of which, at times and in ways without number, money was procured from the bank on worthless or insufficient securities, or on no securities whatever. From the moment that the Grant gang cast their greedy eyes upon the millions which the poor freedmen had saved from their pay and earnings the doom of the bank was as inevitable as the grave. The sum of suffering and woe oc-

casioned by its failure, may be fairly estimated when it is known that the unpaid deposits number nearly 100,000, scattered all over the Union, but mainly in the South and States. The funds of many of the charitable societies were lost in the general wreck. The Hon. Joseph H. Rainey, of South Carolina, himself a colored man, in his speech delivered in the House of Representatives on March 2, 1876, depicted the distress which had been inflicted upon the colored races as the consequence of all this criminal pilferage. I envy not the man who can read or listen to his pathetic words without emotion.

The next act in this drama of crime and pilferage was the passage by the Grant Congress of a law for closing up the concern, and authorizing the appointment of a board of three commissioners for that purpose. Even at this point the rapacity of the criminals was not satisfied. They sought to sell their dirty plunder for the highest price and thereby defraud the colored race. It has been shown that the robbery of the confidence of the colored people was effected by men who acquired their opportunity for plunder through the power the friendship gave to them.

Such, my friends, is a sorry recital of real wrongs to which the helpless freedmen have been subjected at the hands of Grant and his accomplices in and out of Congress.

Now, I wish to submit a proposition, which I hope to live long enough to see carried into effect. It is, that the government of the United States shall pay from the public Treasury a sum sufficient to make good to the depositors in the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company both the principal and interest of their deposits, and I believe I have not a thing to say in regard to the Democratic party, if placed in power, will do justice to the freedmen.

The Centennial.

PHILADELPHIA, August 29, 1876.—Having written you a letter only a few days ago, I will tell you somewhat of my observations. There are no sturdier residents with splendid farms as in the case of most of our larger cities, and this, though the Delaware and Chesapeake rivers, and through their length and breadth its immense incorporation, makes the striking towns and villages. These are reached by cars along non-railroad thoroughfares. On yesterday morning I devoted the day to the most picturesque and picturesque—Georgetown and Chestnut Hill. By about six o'clock I reached the latter place, by the way of the Pennsylvania Railroad. I had a most pleasant trip. Here, with a pleasant companion, I took a drive along the banks of the Wissahickon river to the heights of Germantown. Nature has made the main for the Park, and I was greatly disappointed. As you climb higher and higher you get some very fine views, but nothing striking. A view of the city, the river, the Wissahickon (12 miles from the P. R.), and in the city, I admit, rather inspiring. Far away over the Chesapeake bay and into the little rocky needles and green meadows. You look down into some deep ravines with a calm of these rivers, and the hills of the Wissahickon, and you see his golden-brown and the purple and pink with golden rings to look back upon the arches of the sky. With a glass you can see the Blue Ridge, fifty miles away. In Germantown I saw the old mill house, and the house the bilious made in its stone walls, and in the year ago. They were distinct and as clear as much of the stream as